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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/589,173	05/15/2007	Tracy Gentry	045331/314982	6867
826	7590	08/10/2009	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP			BELYAVSKYI, MICHAIL A	
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA				
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			1644	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/10/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/589,173	GENTRY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michail A. Belyavskyi	1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 6, 8 -21, 22,24-29, 31, 33-36,38, 40-43,45,47-50,52,54-57,59,61-75, 77,7 9-86, 88, 90- 95, 97, 99-104, 106, 108-113, 115, 117-120 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 1-3, 5, 6, 8 -21, 22,24-29, 31, 33-36,38, 40-43,45,47-50,52,54-57,59,61-75, 77,7 9-86, 88, 90- 95, 97, 99-104, 106, 108-113, 115, 117-120 .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment, filed 08/11/06 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 -21, 22,24-29, 31, 33-36,38, 40-43,45,47-50,52,54-57,59,61-75, 77,7 9-86, 88, 90- 95, 97, 99-104, 106, 108-113, 115, 117-120 are pending.

Restriction

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted:

I. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-15, 54-57,59,61-68 are drawn to cell population of ALDH^{bright} stem cells and a pharmaceutical composition comprising said cells.

II. Claims 16-20 and 22 and 69-75, 77 are drawn to a method of reconstituting blood tissue in a patient.

III. Claims 24-29 and 31, 79-86, 88 are drawn to a method of repairing or regenerating a mesenchymal tissue.

IV. Claims 33-36 and 38, 90-95 and 97 are drawn to a method of inducing immunological tolerance in a patient

V. Claims 40-43 and 45, 99-104 and 106 are drawn to a method of producing neurons or oligodendrocytes in a patient.

VI. Claims 47-50 and 52, 108-113 and 115 are drawn to a method of producing cardiomyocytes in a patient.

VII. Claims 117 and 118 are drawn to a method of screening a compound for its ability to promote differentiation, growth, cytotoxicity or apoptosis.

VIII. Claims 119 and 120 are drawn to a kit comprising a detectable ALDH substrate and an antibodies specific for a cell surface markers.

3. The inventions listed as Groups I-VIII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

As was also found in the International Search Report, the Invention of Group I was found to have no special technical feature that defined the contribution over the prior art of Fiordalisi et al (IDS).

Fiordalisi et al., teach a cell population of ALDH^{bright} stem cells.

Since Applicant's Inventions do not contribute a special technical feature when viewed over the prior art they do not have a single general inventive concept and so lack unity of invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

5. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michail Belyavskyi whose telephone number is 571/ 272-0840. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached on 571/ 272-0735.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Michail A Belyavskyi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1644